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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ELLICOTT CITY MAN SENTENCED FOR TAX PERJURY**

**Baltimore, Maryland** - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Allen F. Loucks announces that today Chief U.S. District Court Judge Benson E. Legg sentenced Syrakas Shah, also known as Charlie Shah, age 35, of Ellicott City, Maryland, to 9 months in prison followed by one year of supervised release, 7 months of that in home confinement with electronic monitoring, arising from his guilty plea on November 16, 2004 to willfully subscribing to a false tax return. The Judge also ordered Mr. Shah to pay full restitution to the IRS for all taxes, penalties and interest owed.

According to the statement of facts agreed upon by the parties, Shah's tax return for the calendar year 1999 reported a taxable income of \$734, when in fact it was \$196,472; for the year 2000, he reported \$3166 when in fact his taxable income was \$613,485; and for 2001 the amount reported was \$11,672, when the actual taxable income was \$448,065. Mr. Shah evaded over \$480,000 in taxes for those three years. Shah's finances came to light in connection with the investigation of his father, Mahendra Shah, for the arson of several industrial buildings in South Baltimore. Mahendra Shah was convicted last April of arson and related counts of insurance fraud and money laundering in connection with that fire, and is scheduled to be sentenced on Tuesday, May 17, 2005.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Barbara S. Sale.